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TROOPING THE LINE—Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert J. Friedman (right), incoming United Nations Command Chief of Staff, troops the line of the UNC Honor Guard upon his arrival in Seoul, Korea. Escorting the general is 1st Lt. Kenneth R. Sawyer (center), Honor Guard Commanding Officer, and Army Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel III (left) Commander-in-Chief, UNC.

Military Construction Bill Receives House Approval

The Defense family housing program—a request to build 12,500 new units this fiscal year—was approved without cuts Aug. 1 when the House of Representatives passed the Military Construction bill and sent it to the Senate.

Some reductions were made in other construction projects. In all the House trimmed $258 million from the $2.6 billion omnibus legislation, covering all military construction projects.

Family housing was authorized $787 million with $267 million earmarked for new construction and the balance for support of existing housing.

House action raised the ceiling on the average family housing unit cost from $17,500 to $19,500. Land is excluded from this ceiling.

The bill also continued the current 7,500 service-guaranteed housing rentals at home and raised the maximum monthly rent from $160 to $175. It also permits 5,000 housing rentals overseas, giving the Defense Secretary this authority, with the stipulation of 97 percent occupancy for a period up to 10 years and maximum rent of $185 monthly.

Enlisted Promotion Outlook Called 'Best in DOD History'

Overall enlisted promotion opportunities today in the armed forces are the best in the history of the Defense Department, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) Thomas D. Morris testified Aug. 2 before the House Armed Services Committee.

He said 970,300 promotions in grades E-4 through E-9 are projected for FY68, with more than 85 percent earmarked for E-4 and E-5 grades. These hikes are slated, he said, within the all-service FY68 force structure of 1,760,000 non-commissioned officers and NCO-grade technicians.

Secretary Morris forecasts 568,800 promotions ranging from E-4 to E-9 for the Army; 192,500 Navy, 149,900 Air Force and 59,100 Marine Corps.

The brightening EM promotion picture was only part of the testimony, which covered the entire spectrum of enlisted promotion policies and thinking. These equally important points were brought out:

- DOD believes it best for each service to determine its own annual promotion requirements and capability.
- DOD plans, however, a future objective for each service to forecast annually its own promotion picture for five years.
- Promotional opportunities vary among the services because of different missions, force structures, military occupations and personnel turnover. For example, Army and Marine EM are organized in combat units and cast into a command pyramid rising from squads, platoons and companies to battalions, brigades and divisions. Air Force and Navy EMs hold more technical jobs. About one of four Air Force and one of five Navy enlisted are in electrical and mechanical occupations.
- Army's rapid Vietnam buildup and draft dependence forces Army to train and promote faster, particularly to E-4 and E-5.
- Air Force's low personnel turnover brings about the reverse, inevitably an average of more time-in-grade in higher NCO ranks.
- These service differences are so wide that DOD concludes there is no one best set of EM promotion procedures which should be made mandatory by either directive or legislation.
- Among many future plans, DOD believes increased job restructuring and complete cross-training in another skill might redress over and under populated military occupations, hence, help clear the promotion picture.

Washington Memos

FORMAL, FREQUENT testing rates high in current DOD thinking as one means to help determine possible all-service enlisted promotion standards in the future. Yet board evaluation and interview technique is regarded desirable when personal leadership is primary criterion. Planners find strong merit in both centralized and decentralized selection procedures. They feel the ideal might prove to be a personalized board evaluation scored mathematically the same by all services.

BEGINNING IN JANUARY most Air Force payroll functions in Europe will be transferred to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, Denver, Colo. Move is expected to reduce U.S. international balance of payment deficit by $500,000 annually. Move is scheduled for completion in June. Similar plan for withdrawal of military pay records and functions from Pacific area is under study.

FIRST OF new class of ammunition ships, USS Kilauea and USS Butte, were launched at Quincy, Mass. Ships have specially designed holds for missile and ammunition storage, four Fast Automatic Shuttle Transfer (FAST) stations and helicopters. Built by General Dynamics Corp., ships are 564 feet long and displace 20,500 tons.

IN FISCAL 1967, 5,896 second lieutenants were commissioned through Air University's Air Force ROTC program. With FY67 figures, total number of officers graduated from Air Force ROTC since 1946 is more than 118,000.

366th TACTICAL FIGHTER Wing, Da Nang AB, Vietnam, has been awarded Air Force Missile Safety Award for 1966. Award is presented annually to Air Force unit showing outstanding achievement in missile safety.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION was awarded to 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and attached units for heroism in action against the Viet Cong during Operation Silver City, a search and destroy mission in Vietnam's war zone D in March 1966. Battalion is credited with killing 303 enemy when a Viet Cong regiment, reinforced by two artillery battalions, attacked the battalion's position.

ARMY PERSONNEL MUST hand-carry their official personnel records when traveling to overseas replacement stations according to Department of the Army Message 823167. However, message excludes unaccompanied men in grades E-1 through E-8 who are authorized leave enroute. Their records will be sent by registered airmail.

NAVY'S 82ND NUCLEAR-powered submarine, Narwhal, will be launched at Electric Boat division of General Dynamics in Groton, Conn., Sept. 9. Narwhal will be 30th nuclear submarine launched by General Dynamics since first, USS Nautilus, on Jan. 21, 1954. Sen. John O. Pastore, Rhode Island, chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, will be principal speaker at ceremonies.

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL departing for overseas in either TDY or PCS status must have in their possession two identification tags (dog tags) reflecting proper prefix with their serial number. Tags reflecting old prefixes and suffixes will be re-accomplished prior to departure for overseas.

BRITISH IMPERIAL DEFENSE College staff and student members are touring U.S. between Aug. 4-Aug. 20. Joint Chiefs of Staff have designated U.S. Navy as host for annual visit.

SELECTED AS SENIOR member of the Navy's Board of Decorations and Awards is Vice Admiral William E. Gentner Jr., who will fill the position after his retirement in October. His assistant will be Marine Brigadier Gen. Ronald R. Van Stockum, who will be recalled to active duty when he retires this month.

NAVY PROMOTION BOARD has selected 516 line officers for promotion to captain. Among them are Cdr. Samuel L. Gravely Jr., first Negro line officer to be selected for that grade, and Cdr. William L. McGonagle, commanding officer of USS Liberty when it was attacked by aircraft and torpedo boats last June in Mediterranean.

BRIG. GEN. CARROLL H. Bolender, USAF, has been named manager for the Lunar Module, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office at Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Tex. He will be responsible for management of Lunar Module program including design, development and fabrication of the vehicle. He succeeds Dr. William A. Lee.

TEN MILITARY ACADEMY cadets are participating in a Russian Language and Area Orientation Course conducted by Army's Institute for Advanced Studies, Garmisch, Germany. Program is conducted entirely in Russian and includes studies relating to military, political and economic aspects of Soviet Union. This is first year that outstanding advanced Russian language students for service academies have been invited to attend this program.

KEESLER AFB, MISS., has been named stateside winner of the Air Force Redistribution and Marketing Effectiveness Award. Similar awards were presented to Clark AB, R.P., in overseas competition and Brookley AFB, Ala.

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS Command has awarded a $12.5 million modification of a previously awarded contract to General Dynamics, Pomona, Calif., for production of Standard ARM missiles.

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Special Envoys Taylor, Clifford Report on SE Asia Mission

Following their two-week special mission to Southeast Asia, special Presidential envoys Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor and Clark Clifford said the consensus was that "the allies are headed on the right track."

Mr. Clifford said the allies agree progress made on the ground has been appreciable and "pressure should be built up in South Vietnam."

He also said the allies agree on the necessity and value of bombing of North Vietnam.

On their visit, the special envoys met with officials in South Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Korea, expressing President Johnson's views with reference to the war.

Every phase of the war was discussed in detail, Clifford said—"military strategy, necessary strength that was there, strength that was needed."

Gen. Taylor pointed out, "there was no disagreement as to the basic purpose of a South Vietnam free from the danger of aggression."

As for military action and increased pressure against the enemy, Gen. Taylor said, "We have done quite well in the last year, but we are still having major engagements."

Defense Dept. Supports Legislation On Alaska Communications Disposal

Defense Department seeks to end its participation in the civilian telephone and telegraph business in Alaska. These services are now provided by the Air Force-operated Alaska Communications System.

A DOD spokesman told a House Armed Service Subcommittee that Defense supports pending legislation to sell, exchange or lease all or any part of the system's long-lines facilities. The spokesman said such action would serve the people of Alaska better and let Defense concentrate on military and government communications.

He pointed out the Alaska Communications Disposal Act would dispose of the $300 million system through the Secretary of Defense with elaborate safeguards, including Presidential approval.

The spokesman said Defense expects to sell and lease civilian communications services normally provided elsewhere in the United States by commercial utility companies. Military communications would continue to be owned and operated by the government but some facilities might be leased to commercial operators.

Defense believes disposal would not only save the government money but would also open up a new source of tax revenue.

NEW NAVY UNDER SECRETARY—Charles F. Baird is sworn in as Under Secretary of the Navy by RAdm. Wilfred A. Hearn (left), Judge Advocate General of the Navy, during Pentagon ceremonies July 31. Mr. Baird was Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management prior to being elevated to his present post.

Exec. Order Gives Permanent Authority To Call Up Certain Ready Reservists

President Johnson has made permanent law the authority to call up certain ready reservists who are not meeting their obligations.

The Commander-in-Chief, in an Aug. 4 Executive Order, implemented that part of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967 (Public Law 90–40) providing permanent authority to order to active duty ready reservists of all Armed Forces under specific conditions.

Under these conditions, any ready reservist may be called up who is not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, a unit of the ready reserve; has not fulfilled his statutory reserve obligation, or has not served on active duty for a total of 24 months.

The Executive Order is practically identical to the one issued Feb. 15 that gave temporary call up authority except that it is permanent authority and extends coverage to the Coast Guard Reserve.

Called up ready reservists under these provisions will be required to serve on active duty until they complete 24 months. Any prior service will count toward the total. The law also has provisions for considering family responsibilities and employment in the national health, safety or interest.

AF Medal of Honor Winner Receives Cheney Award

Major Bernard F. Fisher, recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam, was presented the 1966 Cheney Award in a Pentagon ceremony, Aug. 10.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell made the presentation in the presence of Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Ruth Cheney Streeter, the award's co-donor.

The Cheney Award was established in memory of 1st Lt. William H. Cheney, killed in Italy during World War I. The award consists of a citation, medallion, and a $500 honorarium. It is presented annually for "an act of valor, extreme fortitude, or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest performed in connection with aircraft."

Major Fisher's selection as recipient was based on his actions during the "Battle of A Shau Valley" in Vietnam near the Laotian border on March 10, 1966.

U.S., South American Forces Begin Unitas VIII Exercise

Atlantic Fleet aircraft and ships will join South American Navy and Air Force units in the eighth annual combined naval exercise Unitas VIII off the coast of South America.

Under the command of RAdm. Frederick J. Harlfinger II, Commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the four-month exercise will begin Aug. 18, and will be conducted in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Caribbean Sea.

South American countries expected to join with U.S. forces in the exercise are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The U.S. force is scheduled to circumnavigate South America in a counterclockwise direction, going through the Panama Canal and the Straits of Magellan.

United States forces are scheduled to visit selected port cities of those South American countries taking part in the exercise.

LEGION OF MERIT—Air Force Col. Cloyd H. Derey (left) is congratulated by Maj. Gen. Richard P. Klocko, Deputy Director, Defense Communications Agency, after receiving the Legion of Merit (First Oak Leaf Cluster). Col. Derey was cited for outstanding service while Chief, Electronic Systems Division, and Executive, Communications-Electronics, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from September 1964 to May 1967. The colonel is currently assigned to DCA as Deputy Chief, Defense Communications Engineering Office.

Navy Commissions New Sub Group

An innovation in the submarine service, Submarine Development Group One, was commissioned in San Diego Aug. 12.

Assigned under Submarine Flotilla One, the new command will participate in and support military scientific and oceanographic research programs, deep submergence development, and enhance training and perfect techniques in submarine, oceanographic and deep submergence systems.

Submarines USS Salmon, USS Baya, and USS Archerfish will be assigned to the newly-organized group. The Bathyscaph Trieste II and its support dock will also join the Submarine Development Group.

Astronauts Take Training At AF Survival School

Twenty-one astronauts are undergoing intensive desert survival training at the Air Force Survival School, Fairchild AFB, Washington.

During the week-long course, the astronauts will learn how to use their spacecraft and its equipment to protect themselves from the extreme desert temperatures, and to find water and food.

The students spend the first day and a half in the classroom before moving to a sand dune area near the air base for two and a half days of field training. They return to the base for a course critique prior to returning to the Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Tex.

This is the fourth class of astronauts to be trained in desert survival by instructors of the Air Force Survival School. Previous classes were conducted at Stead AFB, Nev.

Coast Guard Begins Search For Sunken Oil Tanker

The Coast Guard will soon begin a search for the hulk of a tanker sunk off the east coast during World War II to determine whether it and the nearly 100 other oil carriers sunk off American shores are a potential threat to U.S. coasts.

Ordered by the Department of Transportation, the undersea examination is in response to President Johnson's call for a water pollution study.

Coast Guard divers will attempt to locate the hulk of the S.S. Gulftrade which was torpedoed by a German submarine approximately 12 miles offshore and some 38 miles northeast of Atlantic City, N.J., in early March of 1942.

If the sunken tanker is located, divers will take samples of the hull and bunker oil cargo that may be trapped within its tanks. The oil samples will be analyzed and the hull plating samples given a metallurgic examination to determine the extent of corrosion and urgency of the threat of oil seepage posed by sunken tankers.

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